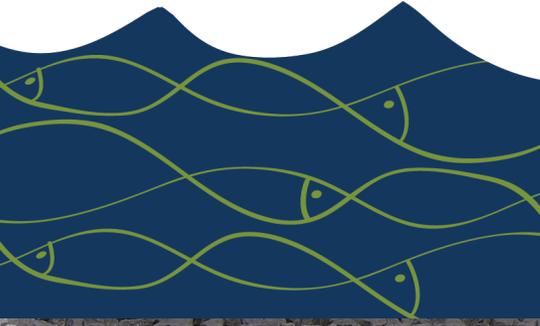


# Clean Water Works



Pervious pavers reduce runoff by allowing water to seep between the blocks into crushed stone below.

## REMOVING IMPERVIOUS AREAS

### Reduce pollution by removing impervious areas (IA).

#### What are impervious areas?

Impervious areas (IA), or impervious cover, are hard surfaces, like rooftops, roads, and parking areas, that prevent water from soaking into the ground. Compacted gravel roads or parking areas may also be considered IA if water cannot infiltrate.

#### Why reduce impervious areas?

Removing IA allows runoff to soak into the ground and reduce pollution that impacts local lakes, streams, and bays. For Portland residents who are subject to a stormwater service charge, removing IA may help reduce your Stormwater Service Charge if removed and stabilized correctly.

#### Steps for removing impervious areas

##### STEP #1 - Permitting and Erosion Control

Removing IA may require one or more permits. Please see the list on the right and consult Portland's Code Enforcement Officer at 207-874-8703 for more information.

Before starting work, measures to prevent soil erosion must be taken. These may include using silt fence, hay bales, or other methods to prevent soil from eroding or leaving your property.

##### STEP #2 - Removal and Disposal of IA

IA demolition materials, including pavement, concrete, building materials, and other debris, must be removed and disposed of properly. Contact Portland's Code Enforcement Officer at 207-874-8703 for guidance.

##### STEP #3 - Reworking the Base Material

A minimum of 3-6 inches of base material must be removed. The remaining base material must then be turned over or tilled to a depth of 9-inches to reduce compaction and allow water to infiltrate.

##### STEP #4 - Stabilizing the Disturbed Area

All areas where IA has been removed must be stabilized with native plants or pervious pavers. Once the area is stable, the erosion control measures may be removed and fee credit may be requested.

#### Permits to Consider

- Maine DEP Shoreland Zoning
  - If you are within 25-250 feet of a water body
  - [www.maine.gov/dep/land/slz/](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/slz/)
- Maine DEP Chapter 500 and Construction General Permit
  - If you are disturbing 1 acre or more of land
  - Erosion and sediment control requirements are specified in these permits
  - [www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/storm.html](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/storm.html)
  - [www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/construction.html](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/construction.html)
- Maine DOT Highway Opening Permit
  - If you are within a road right-of-way
  - [www.maine.gov/mdot/utilities/highwayopen.htm](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/utilities/highwayopen.htm)
- Municipal Permit
  - Always check with your municipality to determine local permit requirements
  - Code Enforcement Officers are a great resource for local projects

**We encourage you to  
contact us before  
starting work:  
207-892-4700**